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Identical letters dated 22 January 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to draw your attention to the following information:

Armed terrorist groups, in particular the Al-Qaida-affiliated Nusrah Front, continue to commit criminal acts of terrorism. On 21 January 2013, in another cowardly terrorist operation against defenceless civilians, a suicide bomber carried out an attack in the heart of Salamiyah, Hama governorate. This criminal act killed 32 civilians and injured dozens of other innocent civilians, including women and children, and destroyed the national hospital, taking it out of service.

This terrorist attack, which was not the first of its kind to have occurred in this city, was an act of vengeance against the people of Salamiyah, who have rejected terrorism and expressed their opposition to it, and who are determined to preserve their city's security, their property and their children's lives.

Other parts of Syria have also seen an increase in terrorist suicide attacks, one of which targeted a school in Nawa, Dar'a governorate. The terrorists attacked the school and stole diesel fuel used to heat the classrooms. In the current academic year, terrorists have constantly threatened to attack schools throughout Syria unless they suspended classes, because, in the terrorists' view, schools should serve as bases for their operations and schoolchildren should join their ranks. The armed groups recruit children to their ranks and use them to commit the most horrific crimes, and then proudly and publicly boast of this on social networking sites.

Syria reiterates that these terrorists, who boast that they have no nationality or identity, are coming to Syria via certain neighbouring States, in particular Turkey, which has opened its doors unconditionally to every terrorist in the world and allowed them to enter Syria. The Turkish Government has supplied the terrorists with the weapons they are using to attack the Syrian people and commit acts of terrorism in Syria.

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Acts of terrorism and those who support terrorism fall under the provisions of the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 1373 (2001). The non-application of this resolution to States and Governments that are engaging in terrorism is tantamount to a decision by those States to spread terrorism and stymie the Council's counter-terrorism efforts.

Syria once again calls on the Security Council to condemn the acts of terrorism that are occurring in Syria and other parts of the world, and calls on those States that are preventing the Council from carrying out its tasks and fulfilling its responsibilities to change their positions, which do not serve security and peace, either in Syria or in the rest of the world.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 105 on measures to eliminate international terrorism, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative